Hospitals are there, starting from each Command area, wherever the Armed Forces are located. In addition to that, for particular types of cases, where there are no facilities available in the Army Hospitals, they can get the treatment done outside.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Sir, the microphone is not working.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I think it is working now. So, when they are being treated in any other hospital, the cost is being reimbursed. But, most of the hospitals, the Army Hospitals, are updated and well-equipped, and all sorts of facilities are available there. But there may be some out of place, where immediate requirement may not be met by the Army Hospital. For that, this provision is being made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Criteria of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

*405. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria of Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and whether Government have identified those rural areas where there are lots of unemployed youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether monitoring mechanism has been fixed by Government so that the lot of youths may get employment?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Parliament has approved the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in September 2005. According to Section 1(3) of the Act, the entire country would be covered within 5 years from the date of the enactment of the Act. In the first phase of its implementation, it would be implemented in 200 districts identified by the Planning Commission. The NREGA would be implemented in first phase in districts presently covered under National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) and Rashtriya Sum Vikas Yojana

(RSVY). A combined list of NFFWP and RSVY districts works out to 195 districts. In addition, 5 districts have been identified as Learning Impact districts to assess the impact of the programme in certain specific backgrounds. The five Learning Impact districts would be Goalpara and Bongaigaon in Assam, Kishanganj in Bihar, Richur in Karnataka and Amarawati in Maharashtra.

Under Section 4 of the Act, State Governments will design Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes that are expected to provide employment through labour intensive works as laid down in Schedule I of the Act and to ensure the entitlements to the beneficiaris are provided under Schedule II of the Act.

(c) At the Central Government level, the Ministry of Rural Development will monitor the implementation of the Act and Planning Commission can review its implementation. In addition, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 shall be monitored through Central Employment Guarantee Council in accordance with Section 11 of the Act.

State Employment Guarantee Councils and Panchayati Raj Institutions have a principal role in monitoring and to ensure delivery of benefits intended under Act. Emphasis has been placed on wide communication of the Act so that people may avail of the benefits under the Act.

Waiving off the loans of Punjab Government

*410. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total term loans given to Punjab Government by Central Government during 1984-85 for combating insurgency and militancy in the state;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Eleventh and Twelfth Finance Commissions on payment of the debt and interest on these outstanding special term loans; and

(c) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Punjab to waive off the entire outstanding amount of loan and interest and have also worked out the security related expenditure and sent the same to the Ministry of Home Affairs as desired by the Twelfth Finance Commission?